

March 2, 2000

The Honorable Frank Lautenberg
United States Senator
Hart Building 506
2nd & C. Streets, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Robert Torricelli
United States Senator
Dirksen Building
1st & C. Streets, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Lautenberg and Torricelli:

I am writing to express my concern and outrage over the recent jury decision rendered in the Amadou Diallo case which exonerated all four police officers from any responsibility in his death.

I believe that the first injustice pertaining to this case was the decision to change the venue from the New York City to Albany, 150 miles away from where the incident took place. This change of venue denied the local area residents, a majority of whom are Black and Hispanic, the opportunity to be considered as impartial jurors.

Despite the statement of jurors who indicated that race was not a factor in this case, the fact remains that an innocent Black unarmed man was shot at forty-one times by four white police officers while in the vestibule of his own home, and nineteen of these bullets struck Diallo thereby taking his life. It was stated by the defense that those police officers were in fear of their lives as Diallo pulled out his wallet, and therefore his killing was justified.

The results of the Amadou Diallo trial have raised serious questions about justice for people of color in America. I believe that because of the circumstances involved in this case that intervention by the U.S. Justice Department is warranted.

Thus, I am respectfully requesting your assistance in calling upon the U.S. Justice Department to review the Diallo case. Clearly, the civil and human rights of Amadou Diallo were violated by these New York City police officers.

(Please Print)

Sincerely,

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